



U.S. Immigration
and Customs
Enforcement

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News Release

DISGRACED SOLDIER ARRESTED AFTER LYING TO GET CITIZENSHIP

A month after Army discharge for refusing Iraq duty, he wore uniform to interview and ceremony

NEW YORK-- Federal special agents arrested an ex-soldier who used his uniform and enlistment to obtain citizenship even though he was discharged from the U.S. Army in disgrace for refusing to deploy with his unit to Iraq.

Marcus Forvil, a citizen of Haiti, was arrested Wednesday by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents and deputy U.S. Marshals working as a fugitive task force on charges of making false statements.

"It is a slap in the face to every soldier who has earned citizenship by honorably serving in the United States military," said Special Agent-in-Charge Martin Ficke, who leads ICE investigations in New York. "If he had served honorably, then he may have been entitled to citizenship. This action shows us that his personal integrity appears to be as weak as his sense of honor."

Forvil, an enlisted soldier, was ordered to deploy to Iraq April 9. He failed to report and was subsequently convicted at summary court martial of two counts of being Absent Without Leave (AWOL) and two counts of "missing movement." He was reduced to the rank of private.

Forvil was discharged from the Army Aug. 5 under "Other Than Honorable" conditions. This is one of the least desirable type of military service discharges.

Forvil allegedly appeared at a naturalization interview Sept. 5 wearing the Army uniform he was no longer entitled to wear and presented an identification card that showed he was still on active duty status even though he was discharged a month earlier. Forvil also allegedly stated to a Department of Homeland Security immigration official that he had never been "arrested, cited or detained by any law enforcement office, including military officers, for any reason."

Based his statements at this interview and the fact that he was presenting himself as a volunteer soldier during the war on terrorism, Forvil was approved for citizenship. On Sept. 17, Forvil became a naturalized U.S. citizen by swearing his oath of allegiance to the United States while wearing a U.S. Army uniform.

ICE

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement is the largest investigative arm of the Department of Homeland Security.